

IL PENNEROSO.

A N

EVENING'S CONTEMPLATION

I N

St. JOHN'S CHURCH-YARD,
C H E S T E R.

A R H A P S O D Y,

Written more than TWENTY YEARS ago;

A N D

Now (FIRST) Published.

ILLUSTRATED

With N O T E S Historical and Explanatory.

*Hæc ego lusi,
Gesta Virum recolens, patrias Memorator ad Oras.*

INCERT.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. LONGMAN in Paternoster-Row;
And Sold by JOHN LAWTON in Chester. M.DCC.LXVII.

[Price ONE SHILLING.]

April 16th

IL PENINSULAR

EVENING'S CONSTITUTION

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH-YARD
CHESTER

A R H A P S O D M

Written more than Twenty Years ago

AND
Now (First) Published

With Notes Historical and Explanatory

By the Rev. John Lubbock, F.R.S.

LONDON

Printed for T. Bohn & Co. in Strand
And sold by John Lubbock in Chester

[Price One Shilling]

TO THE
Rev^d. JOHN ALLEN, M.A.

Senior FELLOW of TRINITY-COLLEGE, Cambridge,

A N D

RECTOR of TORPORLEY in Cheshire.

S I R,

ONE of the *Turba importuna* presumes, unknown to you, to make free with a respectable Name.

YOUR frequent Residence, of late Years, among the following Scenes, has occasioned you this Address; but, as the Patron, and the Author, are both *Plain-Dealers*, nothing of fashionable Dedication is here intended.

THAT, in you, there may be long continued to us exemplary Humanity, candid Benevolence, and the Exercise of each social Virtue, is the earnest Wish of your very numerous Friends, and particularly of

S I R,

Your humble Servant,

M. MEANWELL.

Rev. JOHN ALLEN, M.A.

Senior Fellow of Trinity-College, Cambridge

AND

Rector of Torrington in Cheshire.

SIR,

ONE of the Year's important business, unknown to you, to make free with a respectable Name.

Your frequent Residence, of late Years, among the following scenes, has occasioned you this Address; but, as the Patron, and the Author, are both John-Danvers, nothing of fashion-able Dedication is here intended.

THAT, in you, there may be long continued to us exemplary Humility, candid Benevolence, and the Exercise of such social Virtues, is the earnest Wish of your very numerous Friends, and particularly of

Your humble servant,

M. MEANWELL



IL PENSEROSO.

ADIEU, each modish Vanity,—adieu,
 The gorgeous glare of Dress, the brilliant Ball,
 The nightly Parties, the assembled * *Route*,
 Apt appellation!—Mummery absurd!
 Adieu, such fleeting unsubstantial joys,
 That, like the wafting winds, a little while
 Buoy up life's airy bubble, on the breeze
 Gliding elate, but stronger gales, alas!
 Unable to sustain, the Vapour bursts,
 And bursting, all the subtle form dissolves.

TRIFLERS, ye sons of Indolence, adieu!
 And all ye dainty Narcissæan tribe!
 Adieu that impious Set, that leudly scoffs
 At sacred truths, opiniatively wise.

Adieu

* *Route*. About the time that these lines were written, came in vogue general Cardings (publicly notified) at the houses of people of fashion, and these Congresses were then denominated *Routes*.

Adieu the noisy Bacchanalian crew,
 Those more than midnight Revellers, whose fame,
 And boasted prowess, lies in copious draughts,
 And frequent quaffments in the long carouse.

BUT hither, thou, by sober sapience taught
 Her salutary lore ;—with me retire
 Forth from invasive din ;——Not faintly fall
 Now on the Welkin's wide expanse
 Some sheener gleamings from the Crescent pale,
 Lately renew'd ; this, not obscuring dusk,
 But friendly twilight, bringing to our ken,
 The tranquil objects of the neighbouring scene.

STRAIGHT let us sally forth beyond these walls,
 Which whilom oft successfully repuls'd
 Maroding Cambrians ; while their ravage fierce
 The fenceless southward Ham to flames consign'd :
 (Hence hight § *Treboith*, by those hostile Clans)
 But vain these bulwarks dar'd, rais'd by our Chiefs,
 By Mercian princes, and † *Elfreda*'s care.

FROM

§ *Treboith*.—This Vill (a royal manour) lies to the south of the bridge at Chester ; in Domesday book (Temp. Wilh^m. Conquestoris) it was written *Brug* ; in some deeds, about the 36th of king Hen. VIII. it is stiled *Hunbrige*, now commonly *Handbridge*.—In their frequent attacks upon Chester the Welsh seldom omitted to set this place on fire, and from its repeated conflagrations ; gave it the name of *Treboith*, which, in British, signifies *the burned Town* ; and it is at this day so called by the natives of North-Wales.

† *Elfreda*, or *Ethelfleda*.—She was daughter of king Alfred, and wife to Ethelred, the renowned Earl of Mercia. These were great benefactors to Chester ;

for

FROM these, to scenes suburban we'll retire,
Where, undisturb'd, we freely may devote
To contemplation, and to sweet converse,
In calm recesses, this selected hour.

To where mild solitude resides we'll stray,
Among the letter'd tombs, which oft record
Praise undeserv'd, or 'mongst the humbler graves
Thick intermingl'd, which from grassy turf
No leafings publish; musing, as we tread,
With meditation, and reflection deep,
The silent paths of sepulture and death.

SEE where the Dee impels her † *wisard* stream,
And gently curving, forms two fair canals,
With free expanse, and seemly-parting reach,
Near half-encompassing a fertile plain;

On

for when the Danes had well nigh ruined the place, they did (*circa* A.D. 908.) restore, and greatly improve it, making it much larger, encompassing it with additional fortifications, and taking in the castle, which had before stood without the city-walls.—Hoveden, Brompton, Bradshaw, and others.

Etheldred died, A.D. 912, but the countess Elfreda survived several years, when she gave manifest proofs of her active spirit and martial disposition; and was allowed to be such a heroine, as not to be exceeded by the great Zenobia in the East, or by the celebrated Boadicea in Britain.

† *Wisard*.—See Milton's celebrated monody, *Lycidas*; as also, the present Dr. Akenfide's admired ode, addressed to the country-gentlemen of England.

All Rivers were Διογενεῖς, and by the ancients esteemed divine. And the Britons (as Gildas informs us) attributed divinity to several, but above others, to the *Dwy* (or *Dee*) in particular. For *Dwy*, *Britannicé*, signifies *Dei Aqua*. Nor were they the only people that paid divine honours to rivers: for we find the Thessalonians revered their *Peneus* as a deity, the Scythians their *Ister*, and by the ancient Germans the *Rhine* was deemed highly sacred.

On which, in early days, the stately stag,
 With branching antlers grac'd, the stalking hind,
 And numerous bevys of the trippant race
 Impark'd, disported, and securely brows'd,
 Humanely tended; with retreats supply'd,
 Or from Arcturus', or from Syrius' rage.
 Deftly they sped, of Deva's sovereign * Earls
 Th' amusement, and the care.—This spacious range,

Ypent

* Those sovereign Earls were;

Hugh Lupus, so denominated from his shield, on which he bore, azure, a wolf's head erased argent. He was sister's son to William the first; and to him the Conqueror granted absolutely the earldom of Chester. He died, July 26, A. D. 1101.

To him succeeded Richard, his son, who perished by shipwreck, near *Barbaflete* in Normandy, on the festival of St. Katherine, A. D. 1120.

These territories were next possessed by Randle Earl of Cumberland, who claimed as heir to Richard. However, he was obliged to come to a compromise with king Henry I. for the same. Camden gives this Earl Randle a two-fold title, viz. *Et jure materno, principisque gratia*. He died, January 16, A. D. 1125.

He was succeeded by his son, Randle the second, who died, December 16, A. D. 1153, of a dose of slow poison, given him (as was generally believed) by William Peverell Earl of Nottingham.

His territories fell to his eldest son, Hugh, surnamed Cyveliok, from the place of his nativity, in Powis-Land, North-Wales. This Earl died at Leek in Staffordshire, June 30, A. D. 1182.

He was succeeded by his only son, Randle the third (who had the addition of Blundeville). His exploits and achievements were allowed to equal any of the ancient heroes. Having governed this palatinate 51 years, he died at Wallingford, October 23, A. D. 1232.

His successor was his sister Maud's son, who (according to the appellation of John the Scot) was son to David Earl of Huntingdon, brother to the king of Scotland. Concerning him and his untimely end, see the subsequent note. Upon the decease of this Earl, king Henry III. took this palatinate, with all its regal prerogatives into his own hands, after it had been governed by its sovereign Earls 170 years. Camden says, that the king's own expression was, *Ne tam preclara dominatio inter colos faminarum dividi contingeret*.

Ypent no more, but now in shares dispos'd,
Part arable, and tilth, part fertile meads,
In various fort §, its annual produce yields.

Not that † *Divona* here, her watry course
Originally held; of yore, she deign'd
No kindly visit to our Cestrian walls,
Averse, and distant: Now its pride and boast,
And source of much emolument and weal.

This affluent guest we owe to Latian bands,
Brought by much toil, their station to improve,
From a far tract, beyond where Allen swift,
From ‡ vales Elysian, with translucent stores
Abounding, enters the Cornavian climes.

THE
§ ——— *its annual produce yields.* From the paragraph concluding with this line, we may learn, that, opposite the south side of the large eastern suburbs of Chester, is a fair extent of land, anciently the park of the earls of Chester; of these, there were successively seven from the conquest; the last of whom, John Scot, having been poisoned by the contrivance of the countess Helena, his wife, died without issue, at Dernhale in Cheshire, on the 7th day of June, A.D. 1237. —A part of the land just mentioned (near to the paper-mills) is, at this day, called *The Earl's Eye*, which signifies an island, or low piece of ground, by the side of a river.

† *Divona.* One of the appellations of the river Dee; which name (as Ausonius tells us) among the ancient Gauls, signified, *A fountain sacred to the gods*; and, perhaps, hence it was, that Milton in a poem (other than that before cited) styles it, "*The ancient ballow'd Dee*;" as Drayton does, "*The holy Dee*;" and the late N. Griffith, Esq; in his applauded poem, *The Leek*, calls it "*Deva's holy Tide*."

‡ They who are acquainted with that variety of beautiful landscapes, and delightful scenes, in, and about, the valleys just below Gresford, through which the river Allen hastens towards Cheshire, will readily allow the expression—*Vales Elysian*.

THE hardy Vet'rans this atchiev'd, what time
 * Paulinus, and † Agricola return'd,
 The § Ordovices quell'd; and Druids sperst
 From hierarchal sway, so long posselt:
 And nearer ‡ Mona's wave-dash'd holds reduc'd.

By chanel apt, and regularly form'd,
 Mostly thro' living rock, by labour hewn,
 (The Roman labour could all tasks perform)
 To this new bed compleated, nothing loth,
 By guidance meet, the wond'ring waves were led.

THRO' that rich glebe they flow, where long has wonn'd
 The Grov'nor-Race, a house of high repute,
 Of lineage fam'd, and qualities admir'd,
 Erst *Norman* heroes, *British* patriots since.
 To latest ages may endure the name,
 That ancient name, deservedly rever'd!

FROM

* Suetonius Paulinus, one of Nero's generals, having conquered a large part of North-Wales, made Chester (then Deva) a station, or garrison.

† Cnæus Julius Agricola, an eminent commander under the emperor Vespasian, having entirely subdued the Ordovices and Mona, fixed at Chester the twentieth legion, stiled Valens and Victrix. Anno Christi, 80.

§ *Ordovices*.—These were the inhabitants of North-Wales; of all which country, Deva (Chester) was, in early ages, the capital, or metropolis.

‡ Mona (the nearer) Anglesey, where the famous Druids had, for many ages, held their hierarchy; from which island, such of these as escaped from the Romans fled into the further Mona (the Isle of Man) which was the Mona of Cæsar; as Anglesey was the Mona of Tacitus.

FROM hence, along the verdant sloping banks
Of * Hunditona glide the ductile streams,
Fast by that crystal fount, * Boestona's boast;
Where from her grot, with liberal dispense,
The Naiad issues her salubrious stores.

WITH soft advance, these next to Cestria bring
Bounties abundant, salutary aids,
And various blessings; then are roll'd along,
O'er Syrts § Vergivian, to the boist'rous main.

ANENT that tract, where fallow inmates rov'd,
And frisk'd, with bounding steps, the lawns among,
The hallow'd flood, with undulations soft,
Washes the margin of a hilly range,
Upon whose level top's extended space
A towering structure venerable stands;
Of yore, by royal † Etheldred y' built.

HE,

* *Hunditona*. * *Boestona*. Townships, on the Dee, near to Chester, so written in Domesday-Book, now called Huntington, and Boughton: in the latter is that noted spring, called Barrel-Well, from whence great quantities of water are daily fetched into the city. There is a record extant (in the 1st year of king Edward I.) "*De aquæductu faciendæ a fonte in Boghton juxta Furcas*."

§ *Vergivian*. The chanel between England and Ireland is called by Ptolomy, *Mare Vergivium*.—(See also Milton's *Lycidas*.) This abounds with banks and shifting sand-beds, extremely dangerous, and often fatal, to shipping.

† Giralduſ Cambrenſis, and the annals of Cheſter-Abby, inform us, that, A.D. 689, Etheldred king of Mercia, by the advice and aſſiſtance of the biſhop || Wulfriciuſ, founded the church in the ſuburbs of the city of Cheſter, in honour of St. John Baptiſt.—This munificent prince was uncle to the famous St. Werburgha, the tutelar ſaint, or patronèſſ of Cheſter, to whom the abby there was dedicated.

|| Or Wilfrice.

HE, pious prince (as fond tradition tells)
 Injunction awful, in a dream, receiv'd,
 To found a temple, where a milk-white hind
 He first should meet; and on this fair ascent
 Th' imparted signal to his view occur'd:
 When straightway, from the Mercian prelate's plan,
 Wulfrius sage, the heaven-instructed king
 The grand design began, and rais'd this pile,
 Spacious, and strong; then to the Baptist's name,
 Th' elect Præcurſor! dedicates the dome.

HERE the fam'd * Edgar, moſt puiſſant liege, A.D. 972.
 Publick devotions at the ſacred ſhrines,

In

* Edgar, ſurnamed, The peaceable, who wrote himſelf, *Totius Angliæ Baſileus*. This prince, returning from a ſucceſſful warfare in North-Wales, had his court at Cheſter, whitherto eight kings (or *ſubreguli*) came to do fealty to him: viz. Kenneth king of the Scots, Malcolm king of Cumberland, Macon king of Man, Duſwall and Inchil, who ruled in South-Wales, James king of Galway, and Griffith, and Hual, potentates in North-Wales.—The monarch cauſed theſe to row him in his royal barge, from his palace on the ſouth ſide of the river Dee, up to the church of St. John Baptiſt, whiſt he, as ſupream, ſat and guided the helm. Edgar's abſolute ſovereignty, and the homage of the vaſſal-princes manifeſted upon the Dee, is accurately repreſented in an engraving (in the poſſeſſion of many at Cheſter) done from a drawing by the late Edward Wright, Eſq; of Stretton in Cheſhire. This gentleman was author of ſome obſervations made in travelling thro' France, Italy, &c. in the years 1720 — 1722. Printed for T. Ward, and E. Wickſteed, Inner Temple-lane, A.D. 1730. The foundations of his princely manſion are now apparent, juſt below Cheſter-Bridge ſouthwards.—That ſome of our ſovereign earls might afterwards have had their reſidence there, appears from an engraved plan of Cheſter (done early in the reign of queen Elizabeth) wherein the ſite juſt mentioned is thus noticed, "*Ruina ſa domus comitis Ceſtrienſis*."—About the middle of the cloſe; or field, where the veſtiges are yet viſible, is a cavern in a rock, which ſtill retains the appellation of

In naval triumph, paid ; what time he held
His splendid court, on our Divona's banks.

HITHER, his high-born homagers repair'd ;
The Caledonian king ; and he, enthron'd
In bleak § Deira's territories wide,
(Regions extending, in their northward rang,
To that coercive † Dike, and far-stretch'd † Wall
Concomitant ; effect of Hadrian's toil,
And sage Severus' pow'r, and guardian care).

FROM farther Mona (Monoeda nam'd,
By learned Ptolomy) the chieftain came,

Whose

of Edgar's cave ; on the left side of which, is, cut in the stone, the image of the goddess Pallas. The *Divia Armigera* appears in her warlike habiliments, and the owl (her bird) shews itself on the top of her quiver.—This is taken notice of by the learned Mr. Horfeley, in his very elaborate *Britannia Romana*. Saxon Chronicle, Brompton, Polychronicon, Malmesbury, Hoveden, Bale, Selden, Camden, and a record taken out of the laws of Hoel Dha.

§ The kingdom of Deira took in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham, Westmoreland, Cumberland, Northumberland, and still more northwards ; and the city of York was, at that period, its metropolis.—Drake's Eboracum.

† That famous barrier, by divers writers stiled Hadrian's-Wall. That eminent personage did throw up a dike or rampart of earth, of a marvellous extent, to curb, and confine the Barbarian Piets. Afterwards, the emperor Severus found it necessary to add, to Hadrian's-Fosse, a prodigious stone wall, of above 80 miles in length, in order to effectuate what had been his predecessor's purpose and intention. This very extraordinary fortification has been vulgarly denominated, *The Piet's Wall*.—Drake's Eboracum, p. 9 and 10.

It is said, by Dion, that Severus, in carrying on, and compleating, this stupendous work, lost 50,000 men not slain ; by the enemy, but starved, killed, and drowned, in cutting down woods, draining of bogs, and such like difficult and dangerous attempts.

Whose sovereign dictates aw'd that sea-girt isle.
 In this sequester'd spot the Druids long
 A safe asylum found. To Cæsar known,
 His pen has consecrated both to fame.
 Here, let a flow of friendship be forgiven
 That dares digression, whilst it means to pay
 A grateful tribute to transcendent worth.

(HAIL * rev'rend prelate! who, devoutly bent,
 In letter'd solitude, and peerless state,
 Near half an age in that scant see hast sat,
 Where boist'rous winds and troubled billows roar;
 There faithfully attending to the flock
 Committed to thy care; with them content,
 In unambitious heed, still to remain,
 Devoted to thy charge, and doing good
 With unabating zeal; thine eve of life
 Resplendent with the gleams of pious deeds,
 Of spotless innocence, and sacred lore,
 Confessed shines: Ineffable the meed!
 Soon will thy mitred habilments be chang'd
 For dazzling robes, and a triumphant palm.)

BUT to return!—He too, at Edgar's court,
 His sceptre tenders, whose behests controul

Where

* Thomas Wilson, D.D. born at Burton in Wirral (Cheshire) December 20, 1663. Consecrated bishop of Sodor and Man, January 16, 1697. Died, at Bishop's Court, in that island, March 7, 1755.

Where old § Ierne, 'midst her chilling frosts,
Boasts her firm sons, the brave † Gallivan race.

IN climes remote; where Snowdon's cloud-capp'd brows
Survey the native variegated scenes,
Of hill, of vale, the woodland, and the plain,
Rocks, dens, and caves, old Ocean's furling tides,
The side-long heath, the marsh's dreary space,
The wond'rous * *Rhaiadr* from craggy steeps
Loud-dashing; semblaunt miniatures of Nile,
Objects astounding! From their § Talaiths, each
In regal guise, two potentates arriv'd.

TWAIN others likewise came, who rul'd from far
† Octapitarum, and ‡ Silurean climes,
To th' || Ariconian plains, which plenteous smile,
Rich in Pomona's gifts; by † native Bard,
(‡ Our other Milton, worthily yclep'd.)
Divinely sung.—These princes all attend!
Th' imperial Saxon, in his gilded barge; (* No

§ Ierne, Ireland; chilling frosts. Claudian calls it *Glacialis Ierne*.

† *Galliva*. That part of Ireland, called Galway.

* *Rhaiadr*, signifies a water-fall, or cataract; of these there are several very extraordinary ones, in North-Wales; some of which have a fall of 70 feet.

§ Talaiths.—About the year, 870, Rodericus Magnus divided Wales into talaiths, regions, or territories, which were called kingdoms.—Speed.

† Octapitarum.—A promontory mentioned by Ptolomy, and generally supposed to be St. David's-Head.

‡ The Silures were the people of South-Wales.

|| Ariconium, Hereford.

† That justly admired writer, John Phillips, a native of Herefordshire, and author of that celebrated poem, *Cyder*.

‡ *Uni in hoc laudis genere Miltono secundus, primoque pene par*. See his epitaph, Westminster-Abbey.

(* No mound enormous then obliquely cross'd
Dee's reflux stream, and check'd its hasty course.)
Each royal vassal, with his feather'd oar
Brushing the breeze-curl'd flood, whilst he, supreme,
Directs the helm, expressive of his power.

THUS in her splendid bark, th' Egyptian queen
Glided along the silver Cydnus stream ;
While subject princes hand the filken cords,
The steerage tend, and fet the purple sails.

PROUD § *Sesac* so, in ages long before,
Seated in glitt'ring carr, was us'd to roll
O'er Memphian plains, and Nilus' crowded strand,
By scepter'd slaves in golden harness drawn.

THOUGH early days this grand parade had seen,
A potent despot, and his vassal train,
With happy omens, and by zephyrs bland
Wafted triumphant o'er the *ballow'd* waves ;
Yet,

* Near upon a century after Edgar's show at Chester, the mills at the bridge-foot were erected ; and, in order to supply these with water, that famous dam (vulgarly called *The Causey*) was, with prodigious labour and expence, made ; running slantways across the river, from the closes on the south side (usually denominated *The Earl's Eye*) to the said mills at the north end of Chester-Bridge. This barrier proved a stop to any navigation above bridge ; excepting, that pleasure boats and fishing-craft take the opportunity of spring-tides to get over the Causey.

§ *Sesostris*.

Yet, within trace of memory, we find
This place, which erst acclaim'd the naval pomp,
Mark'd for the scene of much disastrous woe.

At * festive season, and in summer's bloom,
A female bevy (a more ample freight
Than Edgar's shallop bore) in prime of youth,
Embark, all jocund, on this fair canal,
And smoothly glide along the glossy plain,
In social harmony; 'till hapless nymphs!
The baleful *Prize of Beauty* 'midst them thrown,
Rais'd the warm contest; when, in giddy plight,
Eager each maid to seize th' ill-fated boon,
With sudden spring o'erfet the poizeless skiff
In this tremendous shock each effort's try'd
That nature dictates,——but is try'd in vain!

WITH struggling faint, the're seen to sink beneath
The clear expanse; then, buoyant, rise again
Near

* In the mayoralty of Nathaniel Williamson, on the evening of Whitsun-Monday (June 8, 1691) the general holyday for recreation among the lower class, eleven young women being in a boat rowed by two watermen, upon the river Dee, just under St. John's Church; one of the watermen *threw an apple among them*, which, they meaning to scramble for, hastily rushed towards one side of the boat, and quite overfet it; by which accident there were drowned, Anne, Mary, and Elizabeth Hiccocke; Elizabeth Hankey; Thomasine and Anne Ludman; Martha and Catherine Harrison; Rebecca Maddock; and Dorothy Hampson.—The two boatmen swam to shore! when Phebe Jones, one of the young women that were in the boat, catching hold of John Fernyhough's leg (one of the watermen) held so fast, that he drew her after him to the bank-side; but in the action and strokes of his swimming, he, with the heel of his shoe, had beat out all her fore-teeth.

Near to the surface of th' encumb'ring flood :
 Thence quick subside, and quick the lamp of life
 Extinguish'd, ceases;—and they're seen no more!
 One Nymph excepted, and the Tritons twain,
 Who scantly 'scap'd with life, and reach'd the shore.

THEN did those banks resound with loud laments,
 Tumultuous wailings, and the frantic cries
 Of wretched mothers, spoil'd of their best hope!
 While ev'ry shore responsive to their plaints,
 Of their lost daughters, mourn'd th' untimely fate!
 Dreadful catastrophe! A subject meet
 For deep reflection, and the modest use
 Of our weak faculties; by far too weak
 To trace the course of Providence divine,
 It's wond'rous ways, too intricate for man!

THAT * Harold, pierc'd by no dishonest wound,
 And well-nigh slain, when Norman arms prevail'd,
 And Albion's crown became the victor's meed,
 (Fierce hostile rage eluding) hither scap'd,

And

* Giraldus Cambrensis (Itin. ch. II. p. 217) has given us the account (related in the lines above) concerning Harold's escape to Chester, and finishing his course there; and from what this British author has said, Knighton, Fabian, Trevisa, and others, have been strangely misled.—The body of this valiant prince had been so mangled and disfigured in the bloody conflict, that it was with great difficulty distinguished among the carnage; and this, probably, might contribute to give the common people that notion, that he was not actually slain at Hastings: But certain it is, that on the morrow after the battle, the Conqueror sent his corpse (together with those of his two brothers) without ransom;

And in a cell, fast by yon Anchorite's-Hill,
 (Sacred to James, th' Apostle well belov'd)
 Liv'd out his days, and in his latest hour
 Himself reveal'd, some chronicles relate :
 To these, no credence give ; for he, brave prince,
 With glory dy'd on Hastings' well-fought field.

SURVEY this once-fam'd || fabrick ! which had brav'd ^{Built}
 More than eight hundred years the shocks of time ! ^{A.D. 689.}
 And still had brav'd ! had not the ruthless hand
 Of Henry, whom the fawning pontiff dubb'd
The Faith's Defender, scath'd the sacred pile.
 Th' insatiate, desolating tyrant doom'd ^{See Spencer.}
 The neighb'ring fanes to similar despoil.

THE same dire hap that structure grand befell
 Which our first Edward's piety and care,

For
 som, to their mother ; and these remains were with great solemnity interred in
 the church of Waltham-Cross, which Harold himself had founded.

St. James's-Chapel, in St. John's-Church-yard, stood upon the south side of
 the church, on an eminence overlooking the river, and this has the appellation
 of Anch'rites (or vulgarly Anchorage) Hill. The foundations of this ancient
 chapel, as well as some of the superstructure, are still remaining.

|| In this church (St. John Baptist's) was an ancient rood, or image of wood,
 of such veneration, that, in a deed, dated March 27, A.D. 1311, and con-
 firmed by Walter Langton ; this church is called *The Church of the Holy-Cross*
and St. John.

Richard Haverdon (alias Jackson) of Winwick in Lancashire, by his will,
 dated March 28, A.D. 1503, gives vi s. and viii d. to whatever priest would
 go for him to the Holy-Rood, at St. John's at Chester.

One of the deans of this collegiate-church of St. John's, was John Patten, alias
 Wainflete, whose (spurious) son William Patten, or de Wainflete, was bishop of
 Winchester, and founder of St. Mary-Magdalen-College in Oxford.

For hospitable ends, and well-meant aids,
 With cost immense, in § *Mara's* utmost bounds,
 Eastward had rear'd, on † *Weever's* pleasant ripe, * *See Leland.*
 Which, mostly mild, moves leisurely adown
 The fertile vale to meet th' approaching † *Dane*,
 That from its hilly source, o'er frequent fords,
 Hastes onward ;—Now, the friendly currents join'd,
 With mingled waves, for ever flow the same.

Their Con-
 fluence is
 near the cen-
 tre of the
 county.

THIS stately pile ‡, *Vale-Royal-Abbey* hight,
 (So will'd its founder) and by him endow'd
 With goodly granges, and revenues fair,
 Flourish'd, for ages, awful and admir'd,
 The grace and glory of its native soil !

THOUGH the rude hand of violence they felt ;
 Sad demolition !—Yet, not quite destroy'd,
 But worthily transferr'd ; in these remains,
 Still, with reception bounteous, and benign,
 A chearful hospitality survives.

BE-

§ *Mara*. The forest of Delamere (Cheshire) in ancient records, is stiled, The forest of *Mara* and *Mondrum*.

† Two of the principal rivers in that county.

‡ A. D. 1277, king Edward the 1st founded that famous abbey in Cheshire, to which he gave the name of *Vallis-Regalis* : in the building of which, according to the *Lieger Book*, he (even in those days) expended no less than 32,000 *l*. sterling.—In the 35th year of king Henry the VIIIth, the site of this royal abbey, and its ample endowments (for pecuniary considerations) were granted to Sir Thomas Holcroft of Lancashire ; whose grandson (a knight of both his names) sold these premises to a great heiress (then the dowager of one of the most considerable houses in the county, to whom king James the 1st gave the appellation of, *The bold Lady of Cheshire*—In the 13th year of the said king, she settled these acquisitions upon her second son, whose descendants have been, ever since, seated there ; some of which very respectable family, have frequently had the honour to be elected one of the representatives in parliament, for their native county, from king Charles's restoration to the present A. D. 1767.

BEHOLD those stately halls with weeds o'ergrown,
 The fractur'd columns round with ivy clad,
 Whilst underneath the once firm-vaulted roofs
 * The lowing kine are stabled ; all above
 Through rifted arches roar the hollow winds,
 And shake the tott'ring remnants ; now, alas !
 Birds of ill omen nightly nestle there,
 A baleful congress ! hideous to the view !
 The haunt of owls, and daws, and ravens dire.

Lo, § yond old manse that fronts the moist south-west,
 Whose time-worn walls are mould'ring in decay !
 There Deva's prelates whilom had abode ;
 'Till Robert, hight de Limoisie (when reign'd
 The tyrant Rufus o'er these realms) allur'd
 By costly shrines, and roofs all silver'd o'er,
 (The noble † Leofric's munificence,

And

* This was actually so, when these lines were penned.

§ The ancient episcopal residence was upon that pleasant bank, near the west end of [St. John's Church ; on which delightful situation one of the devisees of the last diocesan has, a few years ago, built an elegant mansion.

† Leofric, earl of Mercia (together with his famous countess *Godiva*) founded, and so amply endowed a monastery at Coventry, that it was deemed the richest in all the land.—Malmesbury, fol. 73. Monasticon. vol. I. p. 302. Angl. Sacra, vol. I. p. 433.

This was thoroughly plundered and pillaged by this bishop Robert, who did not spare even the roofs or ceilings.

In Monasticon. vol. I. p. 302, We read, that this prelate is said to have scraped 500 marks worth of silver from one beam.—“ *Ex una enim trabe cor-
 “ rasit.*”

And pious bounty) to Coventria's fane
 Remov'd his seat ; and,—sacrilege accrues'd !
 Robb'd the rich shrines, and peel'd the plated beams.
 To what strange deeds will not the lust of wealth
 Urge mortal breasts ! It's chief, and guardian thus
 The dome prophan'd ; and by this rapine foul
 The priestly function sullied, and disgrac'd.

YET he, from heaps amass'd, was snatch'd away !
 A prototype of Beaufort, mitred prince,
 Who plunder'd Albion's realm ; and would have brib'd
 Th' obdurate King of Terrors !—proff'ring thus ;
 * “ Death ! unto thee, I'll England's treasure give,
 “ Enough to purchase such another realm,
 “ If thou wilt let me live, and feel no pain.”
 Lo ! the grim tyrant heedless, and unmov'd !
 So, 'midst his hoards, this mighty churchman dy'd !

FROM Robert's flitting, to that æra, when
 Despotic Henry's innovating scheme
 The chair-episcopal from hence transferr'd
 To fam'd Werburgha's walls ; this ancient see
 Mostly obey'd a delegated power.

As by these awful wrecks of crumbling stone,
 We tread those dreary spaces which receive

The

§ The earth-born sons of men to earth return'd,
 Reflection hints;—"If, this the lot decreed,
 " This the sure debt which mortals all must pay!
 " Why then, ye transitory beings! why!
 " Run ye so eager in the worldly chace;
 " Now grasp at shadows, and now catch at air?"

HERE, to the northward side, recumbent see
 A sculptur'd warrior; whose yet-semblance shews
 Th' effigies-armour'd of a * templar-knight.
 He once (as tells his attitude) had done
 Sepulchral duty, at his Saviour's tomb,
 In Palestine remote;—what booteth now
 That his firm limbs were once in mail yclad,
 'Gainst Death's sure dart not proof; whose pow'rful stroke
 Levels alike the feeble and the strong,

Th'

§ 1 Cor. c. xv. v. 47—49.

* They were a military order of Knights, instituted, A.D. 1118, for the protection of the Christian Religion, and of all such as went in pilgrimage to the sepulchre of our Lord against the Mahometans. In the reign of king Henry the 11d, Heraclius, patriarch of Alexandria, consecrated a church for them, which they had built after the model of the temple near our-Saviour's sepulchre at Jerusalem; for there they lived in that part of the temple, and had their name from it. They spread over the western parts of christendom; and had several manors and estates given them in several counties in England, in king Stephen's time. In the beginning of his reign, it is thought they were settled in the chief house of their order in England, viz. the Old Temple, without Holbron-Bars, on the south side of the street, near Southampton-Buildings, London. Here they continued 'till the year 1185, when the New Temple in Fleet-Street, a more commodious habitation, was finished for them. But in 1312, this order was totally suppressed. They were buried cross-legged; for so all those in that age, who had devoted themselves to the service of the Holy War, or as those times worded it, *had taken up the Cross*, were buried, and so represented on their tombs.

Th' oppressor, and th' oppress'd, the rich, the poor;
And blends, impartial, lazars with their kings.

THOUGH objects offer still, and scenes occur;
Yet, as abundant † minutes of the night † Shakespear's Hamlet.
Have stol'n, unheeded, by; we'll now retreat,
Nor further dare the mists, and vapours dank.

FINIS.

